AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer implemented~~ method ~~for establishing a communication protocol~~ of communicating between a first computer and a second computer, comprising:

    identifying a plurality of documents associated with a transaction;

    defining an action sequence for the plurality of documents, the action sequence defining actions that are performed on the documents and a sequential order of the actions;

    ~~and~~

    the first computer creating one of the plurality of documents based on the action sequence-; and

    the first computer sending the one of the plurality of documents to the second computer.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 and further comprising:

    checking a version identifier to see if the first computer and second computer include the same version of a process template related to the action sequence.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 and further comprising;

    the second computer requesting a copy of the process template ~~with the second computer~~ if the second computer does not include the same version of the process template as the first computer.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 and further comprising:

    rendering a document based on a set of rendering rules for each of the documents, wherein rendering comprises making the document viewable to a user and wherein the rendering rules define how each of the documents is rendered in various applications.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 and further comprising:

> defining actions that can be performed on each of the documents, wherein the first computer can perform a first set of actions and the second computer can perform a second set of actions.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 and further comprising:

> creating one of the documents based on a relationship between the first computer and the second computer, wherein the relationship between the first computer and the second computer comprises the first computer having a process template and the second computer having a copy of the process template.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the first computer is associated with a supplier and the second computer is associated with a customer.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 ~~and further comprising:~~

> ~~routing the documents from the first computer to the second computer based on routing rules,~~ wherein the one of the plurality of documents is validated before it is sent to the second computer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 5 and further comprising:

> integrating information in each of the documents into an application on one of the first computer and the second computer.

14. (Currently Amended) A business network, comprising:

> a first computer having a memory including a process template, the process template comprising:

a business entity module defining a structure of business entities ~~exchanged in an~~

~~action sequence~~;

an entity action module defining ~~the~~ valid action~~s~~ ~~sequence of related actions~~ that

can be performed on the business entities; and

a transaction document module defining transaction documents and creating a

corresponding document based on the business ~~entities~~ entity module and

the entity action module; ~~action sequence; and~~

a second computer having a memory including a copy of the process template and

performing actions based on the process template and a relationship between the

first computer and the second computer; and

wherein information entered into the transaction documents and actions performed on the

business entities are validated against the process template before an exchange

between the first and second computers.

15. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 14, wherein the process template further
comprises:

a correlation module defining how each of the business entities are related and recorded

in a history.

16. (Currently Amended) The network of claim ~~14,~~ 15, wherein the process template further
comprises:

a version identifier identifying a particular version of the ~~business entity module, the~~

~~action sequence and the transaction document module.~~ process template.

17. (Original) The network of claim 16, wherein the second computer is adapted to check the
version identifier to see if the particular version of the process template is stored thereon and
request a new copy of the particular version of the process template if the second computer does
not include the particular version of the process template.

18. (Currently Amended) The network of claim ~~14,~~ 16,wherein the process template further comprises:

      a routing module defining routing rules for each of the transaction documents.

19. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 14, wherein the ~~relationship includes the first computer being associated with a supplier and the second computer being associated with a customer,~~ valid actions that can be performed on the business entities depend upon an identity of a user.

20. (New) A business network, comprising:

      a first computer having a memory including a plurality of applications and a plurality of process templates, each process template comprising:

          a set of business document definitions that identifies transaction documents associated with the process template, wherein each of the transaction documents includes a reference to the process template;

          a set of collaboration definitions that defines the manner in which the transaction documents associated with the process template are related, viewed, and created;

      a second computer having a memory including the plurality of applications and at least one of the plurality of process templates;

      wherein the first computer and second computer exchange transaction documents associated with the at least one of the plurality of process templates; and

      wherein information entered into the transaction documents associated with the at least one of the plurality of process templates is validated against the at least one of the plurality of process templates before the first computer and second computer exchange the transaction documents.

21. (New) The business network of claim 20 wherein the reference to the process template is used in tracking, correlating, and acknowledging.

22. (New) The business network of claim 21 wherein the second computer requests a copy of a second one of the plurality of process templates in the memory of the first computer.

23. (New) The business network of claim 22 wherein the first computer sends the copy of the second one of the plurality of process templates to the second computer.

24. (New) The business network of claim 23 wherein the plurality of applications includes an email program and a spreadsheet program.